

Trails and Destinations



KETTLE FALLS HOTEL & DAM

Built in the early 1900’s, the historic Kettle Falls Hotel attracted a transient community of people, including lumberjacks, fish buyers, prospectors, and bootleggers.

Long before the hotel and dam were built, Ojibwe Indians and voyageurs portaged their birchbark canoes and trade goods on this narrow strip of land between Rainy and Namakan Lakes.

The Kettle Falls Hotel is within Voyageurs National Park and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Kettle Falls Hotel, restaurant and marina continue to welcome visitors each summer.

This popular destination within the park is now managed by a private concessioner. Call (218) 240-1726 during the summer and (218) 240-1724 during the winter for more information. You may also visit Kettle Falls on-line at www.kettlefallshotel.com.

Park-guided boat tours to Kettle Falls depart from the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center during the summer months (fee). See the program schedule for more information.



ELLSWORTH ROCK GARDENS

Jack Ellsworth constructed a unique sculpture garden on his vacation property on Kabetogama Lake from 1944 to 1965. Mr. Ellsworth designed terraces containing 32 varieties of flowers atop a 60-foot granite outcrop. Over 13,000 lilies bloomed during the garden’s peak. Voyageurs National Park acquired this property years ago, and began work to rehabilitate the gardens in 1996.

The Ellsworth Rock Gardens are accessible only by water. Picnic tables, a picnic shelter and an outhouse are located at this popular visitor destination. Park-guided boat tours depart from the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center throughout the summer to bring people out to the gardens (fee).



LITTLE AMERICAN GOLD MINE ISLAND

Discover the past on Little American Gold Mine Island while you explore the remains of mining activities from the short-lived Rainy Lake Gold Rush. Park-guided boat tours to Little American Island depart from the Rainy Lake Visitor Center during the summer months (fee).

Stop by a park visitor center to pick up a map and brochure if exploring this favorite visitor destination on your own.

Boat Access Trailheads

Rainy Lake

Anderson Bay Trail (2.1 mile loop)

This loop trail will take you high up on rocky outcrops to view spectacular scenery on Rainy Lake.

Black Bay Beaver Pond Trail (.6 mile, one-way)

Hike through the boreal forest to an active beaver pond.

Cruiser Lake Trail System (9.5 miles to Kabetogama Lake)

Travel up rocky cliffs and down into remote wetland areas on this trail that crosses the Kabetogama Peninsula. Several of the park’s interior lakes and backcountry campsites may be accessed on this trail system. If you are hoping to spot some of the park’s larger wildlife, hiking this trail will increase your chances of spotting a moose or hearing the howl of a wolf.

Kabetogama Lake

Cruiser Lake Trail System (9.5 miles to Rainy Lake)

The same great trail described above may be accessed from Kabetogama Lake as well.

Locator Lake Trail (2 miles, one-way)

Travel from the shores of Kabetogama Lake to Locator Lake on the Kabetogama Peninsula. Reserve one of the park’s canoes in advance to enjoy paddling on Locator Lake without the hassle of portaging in your own boat. Locator is the first of a chain of lakes that await exploration. Stop by a park visitor center for more information.

Car Access Trailheads

Near Rainy Lake

Oberholtzer Trail (2 miles, round trip)

Travel from just outside the Rainy Lake Visitor Center to two overlooks to see the diversity of forest and wetland types in Voyageurs National Park. This trail is wheelchair accessible for the first 1/4 mile. Trail maps and guides are available at the trailhead and at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center. This trail is tracked for snowshoeing during the winter.

Tilson Bay Hiking Trail

This scenic trail is located just outside of the park on Highway 11. Parking is available across the street from the trailhead and Tilson Bay boat launch ramp. Leashed dogs are permitted on this trail.

Near Kabetogama Lake

Echo Bay Trail (2.5 mile loop)

This park trail is located 3 miles from the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center off County Road 122. A wide path takes you from aspens to pines as you pass through low-lands and rocky outcrops. Birding is great here with a great blue heron rookery and sightings from warblers to woodpeckers. Bring your binoculars, bug spray, and a sense of adventure.

Kab-Ash Trail (24 mile system)

Travel through backcountry forests and wetlands on this extensive system of interconnected trails. You can access the trail in several locations, including on Salmi Road in the Kabetogama Township.

Near the Ash River Visitor Center

Blind Ash Bay Trail (2.5 mile loop) & Kabetogama Lake Overlook (0.2 mile, one-way)

As you leave the park’s Ash River Visitor Center, this trailhead will be the first one on your right. A short, wheelchair-accessible trail winds through the forest to a bench overlooking Kabetogama Lake. This overlook is the starting point for the Blind Ash Bay trail, a narrow and rocky path that leads to Blind Ash Bay. You may also start this trail from the upper overflow parking lot at the visitor center. Remember to bring water, sturdy shoes, and bug repellent.

Beaver Pond Overlook (0.2 mile, one-way)

This is the second trailhead on your right as you leave the Ash River Visitor Center. A short uphill hike leads to a rocky terrace high above a beaver pond in transition. Although beavers are no longer active at this pond, this trail provides great birding opportunities, and the possibility of spotting large wildlife moving through to pond area below.

Kab-Ash Trail (24 mile system)

Begin a hike on this trail network near the Beaver Pond Overlook parking lot, and immediately across the street where the trail continues to the community of Ash River. Be sure to bring a map and know how to navigate in the backcountry when hiking on the Kab-Ash trail system.

Voyageurs Forest Overlook (0.5 mile loop)

The entrance to this short trail is furthest from the Ash River Visitor Center, and is located on the left side of the park road just before reaching County Road 129. A picnic table and restroom are located at the trailhead, making this a good spot to get out of your car and stretch your legs.

Near Crane Lake

Orr Bog Walk

Located behind the Orr Travel Information Center on Highway 53, this short loop trail provides access through a variety of forest and wetland types on a well-maintained boardwalk. This trail is located outside of the park.

Vermilion Falls

A ten minute walk on a well-maintained interpretive trail brings you to Vermilion Falls, a cascading torrent of water forced through a 10-foot wide opening in the granite. Two miles before reaching Crane Lake, turn left on USFS Road 491. Travel four miles to the trailhead. Leashed pets are allowed on this trail, which is located outside of the park.

Vermilion Gorge Trail

At a leisurely pace, this 3 mile round-trip trail can be easily hiked in two hours. The trail passes over rugged landscape of sheer granite cliffs and rock outcrops while paralleling the Vermilion Gorge. Interpretive signs along the trail describe the history of this area. The trailhead is located 0.1 mile north of the ranger station on the west side of the road in Crane Lake. Leashed pets are allowed on this trail, which is located outside of the park.

PARK HIKING TRAILS — No Pets Allowed		
Trail Name	Length	Access
➊ Black Bay Beaver Pond Trail	2/3 mile (one way)	Water
➋ Oberholtzer Trail	1 mile (one way)	Car
➌ Locator Lake Trail	2 miles (one way)	Water
➍ Echo Bay Trail	2.5 miles (loop)	Car
➎ Blind Ash Bay Trail	2.5 miles (loop)	Car
➏ Kabetogama Lake Overlook	0.2 mile (one way)	Car
➐ Beaver Pond Overlook	0.2 mile (one way)	Car
➑ Cruiser Lake Trail	9.5 miles (one way)	Water
➒ Beast Lake Trail	2.5 miles (one way)	Water
➓ Anderson Bay Overlook	2 miles (loop)	Water
➔ Kab-Ash Trail System	24 miles hiking (1-way & loops) 22 miles skiing (1-way & loops)	Car
➕ Voyageurs Forest Overlook	0.5 mile (loop)	Car
➖ Little American Island	.25 mile (loop)	Water

Interior Lake Canoes & Rowboats

Experience the solitude of a remote lake on the Kabetogama Peninsula without having to portage a boat or canoe.

The National Park Service provides canoes and/or rowboats on several interior lakes for a fee of \$10 per boat, per day.

The Kabetogama Peninsula can only be accessed by water, so you will need to use your own boat or a water taxi service to access the trails that lead to the park’s interior lakes.

Interior Lake canoes and/or rowboats are located on the following lakes:

Locator, Quill, Ek, Cruiser, Little Shoepack, Shoepack, Cranberry Creek, Brown, Peary.

